

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings and versions of claims in this application.

Claims 1-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A footwear lacing system for an article of footwear that includes a tongue area and first and second opposing closure edges comprising:

at least one lace having an end that is provided with threads;

a lace guiding system having a plurality of lace guides affixed to the first and second closure edges for guiding the lace to traverse the tongue area in a plurality of locations to enable tightening of the footwear on the foot of a wearer; and

at least one lace end tightening device affixed to the footwear for accommodating an end portion of the lace to provide for adjustments to the tension of the lace; the tightening device comprising a twist-tightening mechanism for engagement by the user; a threaded member associated the mechanism configured for mating threaded engagement with the end of the lace that has the threads; a structure associated with the threaded member for resisting rotation when not desired; and an end section for mounting to the footwear article;

wherein rotation of the twist-tightening device tightens or loosens the lace to facilitate adapting of the article of footwear to the user's foot.

38. (Currently Amended) The lacing system of claim 37, wherein the structure comprises flattened side portions associated with the twist-tightening ~~further comprising a tightening mechanism affixed to the footwear and connected to the lace, the tightening mechanism operable by a~~ so that the mechanism does not rotate after the user [[to]] tensions the lace.

39. (Currently Amended) The lacing system of claim 37, wherein the lace end tightening device ~~is a cable end tightener that comprises an end section affixed to the footwear, and a~~ is freely rotatable with respect to the twist tightening mechanism threaded member with the end section.

40. (Currently Amended) The lacing system of claim 37 further comprising ~~[[wherein the]]~~ a plurality of lace end tightening devices ~~is a cable length adjustment device~~ ~~affixed to the footwear, wherein the adjustment device includes~~ are provided so that a plurality of end stations are present, each capable of releasable connection to the lace.

41. (Currently Amended) The lacing system of claim 40 wherein the ~~cable length adjustment device includes~~ the lace is provided along a serpentine path for accommodating the lace.

Claims 42-50. (Cancelled)

51. (New) The lacing system of claim 38, further comprising a protective flap for covering the threaded member of the cable-end tightening mechanism.

52. (New) The lacing system of claim 40, wherein a lace is associated with each tightening mechanism.

53. (New) The lacing system of claim 52, wherein each lace is present in a different portion of the article of footwear so that adjustment capability is provided for two different zones of the footwear.

54. (New) The lacing system of claim 53, wherein one zone is near an ankle region of the footwear article and the other is near the foot region.

55. (New) The lacing system of claim 54, wherein each zone is associated with the tongue of the article of footwear, with one zone being associated with a top portion of the tongue and the other being associated with a bottom portion of the tongue.

56. (New) The lacing system of claim 37 which further comprises two crossing lace channels and at least two adjustable stop bumpers, the stop bumpers configured to contact first

and a second opposing closure edges of the footwear article, wherein the tightening mechanism is associated with each of the stop bumpers.

57. (New) The lacing system of claim 56, further comprising four adjustable stop bumpers, the stop bumpers configured to contact first and a second opposing closure edges of the footwear article.

58. (New) The lacing system of claim 37 wherein the structure includes teeth.

59. (New) The lacing system of claim 58 which further comprises an element having an affixing member that includes at least one tooth for releasably meshing with the teeth of the structure to prevent rotational movement.